

TOWN OF IPSWICH
MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Thursday, February 12, 2015
Ipswich Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Tuesday, FEBRUARY 12, 2015 at 7 PM in Selectmen's Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Chairman Craft called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Selectmen present: William Craft, Chair; Judy Field; Nishan Mootafian and Charles Surpitski.

Also present: Robin Crosbie, Town Manager

Not present: Shirley Berry

The open meeting was recorded, with permission, by Ipswich Access Community Media.

Public Information:

Agenda --Packet

Citizen's Queries

None

Budget Review

Public Health: Colleen Fermon, Director of Public Health appeared before the Board to discuss the Budget for her department. There were increases in costs from Title 5, Septic Tanks. A second large increase has been in the area of housing complaints. Ms. Fermon went over the rest of the budget for the Public Health department. Mr. Surpitski questioned whether the person who completes the septic inspections is a full time employee or paid on an as needed basis. Ms. Fermon confirmed it is on an as needed basis. Mr. Surpitski asked if the office proactively goes out and inspects housing. Ms. Fermon confirmed these inspections are complaint driven. Mr. Surpitski wondered what the complaints entailed. Ms. Fermon said they vary from garbage disposal problems to heat issues. Mr. Surpitski also wondered how the health department gets involved in trench permitting. Ms. Fermon explained that these come into play for septic tank repairs and soil testing. Mr. Mootafian asked if there were any regulations regarding exterior maintenance, including lawn care, etc. Ms. Fermon said there are some regulations, but they involve having no garbage on the property, etc. There are no regulations stating that the lawn should be mowed and that type of rules.

Finance: Rita Negri, Finance Director appeared before the Board to review the budget. She stated that that the budgets are pretty consistent year after year, and there were no major changes. Mr. Craft asked what the impression on the Town on bonds, Ms. Negri confirmed she feels we are managing the bonds well at this point. Mr. Craft requested the Town's rating and it is A2. There are some ongoing issues with Essex Aggie funds, Mr. Craft spoke with Rep. Brad Hill and it is clear to him that this is an issue of the state or the new regional school. Rep. Hill is working with Senator Tarr to get this corrected. Until then this needs to be carried in the budget because the town is being billed for it. Mr. Surpitski wondered about the savings windfall, where does it sit. Ms. Negri said there really is no savings, it went to cover other problems, including snow and ice.

Assessors: Robin Nolan, Chief Assessor appeared before the Board to discuss the Assessor's budget. She explained that everything stays the same, except for the fees for Patriot Properties. The price goes up every year. The rest of the budget was reviewed. Mr. Mootafian wanted to know if someone wanted to

come down and see how and assessment was calculated would they be able to do that. It was confirmed that they could do that in the office. The Patriots Property website was discussed in depth.

Utilities Director: Greg Parachojuk, IT Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the IT department budget. He went over the plans for the new town website. The new website should be available towards the end of March and the GIS should be about 6 weeks after that. Mr. Craft wanted to know what the plans were for this, Greg said initially he wanted to release them at the same time, but it was discovered that this plan would not work so it will be within two months from each other.

Building Inspector and Code Enforcer: James Sperber, Director of Code Enforcement, appeared before the Board to discuss the Department of Code Enforcement budget. Mr. Sperber said that his department has been extremely busy this year, especially because of Turner Hill plans. He would like to see an increase in training because of state regulations changing on inspections, etc. He also explained the ebb and flow to his department's budget, and why these would happen and he discussed online permitting.

Recreation & Culture: Kerrie Bates, Director of Recreation and Culture, appeared before the Board to discuss her department's budget. Mr. Craft enjoyed that there was more activity being seen downtown and thanked her for her work on this.

Council on Aging: Sheila Taylor, Director of Council on Aging (COA), appeared before the Board to discuss the COA's department's budget. She explained that the programs that are the most popular right now are Health, Wellness and Exercise they tend to be very well attended programs. Mr. Surpitski questioned the senior volunteer program and wanted to know if there was a need beyond the money that was budgeted. Ms. Taylor explained that this program is a win-win for everyone involved. The workers make minimum wage, but minimum wage was raised so this means some people have to work less to stay within the budget. The current allocated amount hires about 13 people, and the Council on Aging uses the newsletter to advertise openings.

Planning & Community Development: Glenn Gibbs, Director of Planning and Community Development, appeared before the Board to discuss his department's budget. Mr. Surpitski had questions about the increase in the salaries, and the reasons for this were explained including how positions have changed. Mr. Gibbs also explained the retail businesses improvements and adjustments that had taken place in the past year. Mr. Surpitski wanted to know if we on a regular basis communicated with businesses on their needs, Mr. Gibbs explained that the restructuring of the planning office was so that he could do just that going forward. Mr. Gibbs new priorities were explained to the Board.

Minutes –January 20th, 2015

Mr. Mootafian recommended some spelling corrections for the minutes

Vote: Ms. Field moved to accept the minutes of January 20, 2015 with edits, Mr. Mootafian seconded and it was unanimous to do so.

Old Business

Mr. Craft stated that the Town Manager would be going on vacation, and had requested someone be appointed the interim Town Manager. Mr. Craft and Mr. Surpitski would be taking on this role.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to appoint Mr. Surpitski and Mr. Craft to become acting Town Manager during Ms. Crosbie's vacation, Ms. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.

Adjournment

Vote: Ms. Field moved to adjourn, Mr. Mootafian seconded and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by
Jennifer Dionne
2.27.15